A TRUE RELATION AND DESCRIPTION

Of the Strange and Prodigious

Blazing Comett

Seen in the HEAVENS

By many *Thousands* of People in *LONDON* and WESTMINSTER, On the 11th and 12th Days of this instant *Decemb.* 1680. from Five till Seven of the Clock each Evening.

LONDON,

Printed for *Benjamin Harris* at the *Stationers Arms* in the *Piazza* under the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*, and *Enoch Prosser* at the *Rose* and *Crown* in *Sweetings-Rents* at the East End of the *Royal Exchange*, 1680.

A TRUE RELATION AND DESCRIPTION

Of the Strange and Prodigious

Blazing Comett

Seen in the HEAVENS

By many *Thousands* of People in LONDON and WESTMINSTER,

On the 11th and 12th Days of this instant *Decemb.* 1680. from Five till Seven of the Clock each Evening.

LONDON,

Printed for *Benjamin Harris* at the *Stationers Arms* in the *Plaza* under the *Royal Exchange* in *Cornhill*, and *Enoch Prosser* at the *Rose* and *Crown* in *Saint Pauls*. *Rents* at the East End of the *Royal Exchange*, 1680.

A True Relation and Deſcription of the Strange and Prodigious Blazing Comet *ſeen in the Heavens*, &c.

'TIs now ſome weeks paſt that we had a Story in the *Gazet*, of a *Comet* or Blazing-Star ſeen at *Falmouth*; ſince which there has been Advice both by Letters and *News-books* Printed in Foreign parts, that the like *Phænomenon* has been obſerved at divers places beyond the Seas. But little credit was given unto ſuch Rumors, or notice taken here of this *Cœleſtial Prodigy*, till Providence was pleaſed to order the ſame to appear very perſpicuouſly in the Horizon of this Great and Honourable City of *London*, where the firſt preciſe time of its Manifeſtation is uncertainly reported: Some pretending to have obſerv'd it for ſeveral Nights paſt; but undeniably true it is, that it ſhew'd it ſelf notoriouſly on Saturday the Eleventh Inſtant, from Five a Clock till about Seven in the Evening: And in the ſame manner, and for about the ſame ſpace of time on Sunday (the next) Night following. Of which (eſpecially on the laſt mentioned Evening) there were many Thouſands of Judicious and very Intelligent Eye Witneſſes, who with Surpriſe and an awful Conſternation, beheld the ſame, both at *Tower-hill*, *Moor-fields*, *Bunn-hill-fields*, *Charing-croſs*, and

in every open place, whoſe Height or Freedom from the Intercepting Buildings gave them the Liberty of a fair proſpect.

Though the Vulgar were pleaſed to Term it a *Blazing-Star*; yet properly it was not ſo, for there did not appear any likeneſs of a *Star* belonging to it: yet we conceive it might juſtly be called a *Comet*, in a large ſence; For we find Authors that have treated on ſuch Subjects, do uſually reckon up divers Species of *Comets*, and particularly that *great Secretary of Nature*, *Pliny*, *Lib.* 2. *Cap.* 15. mentions Twelve ſorts of them, (*viz.*) 1. *Stella Crinita*, an *Hairy Comet*, horrible to behold, inflamed round about with bloody Shagged Rayes, like a Buſh or the Hair of the Head. 2. *Barbata*, a Bearded (which ſtrictly we call a *Blazing*) *Star*, caſting forth Beams to a great length. 3. In the ſhape of a *Dart*. 4. Like a *Knife*, Sword or Dagger. 5. Round as a *Diſh* or Platter. 6. Like a Tun, hiding ſmoaky Beams in its Concavity. 7. Bowed like an *Horn*, or the Head of a Croſier-ſtaff. 8. Like a *Lamp or Torch*. 9. Like the *Mein* of an Horſe, moſt ſwift in motion. 10. Like a Goat. 11. *Argyrocomes*, a Comet or Star *Silver-hair'd*, very white and thin in its Shining. And laſtly, *Haſta*, a Comet in the form of a Spear, Spit, or Pole.

And of the laſt ſort, this preſent Comet ſeem'd to be, the true Deſcription whereof, as near as can be expreſſed, follows.

It appeared in the *Weſt*, or rather *South-weſt* part of the Heavens; in that which Poets and Aſtrologers call the *Galaxie*, *Via Lactea*, or

Milky way, (a part of the Firmament adorned with Infinite Numbers of *ſmall Stars*, placed very thick and near together, which occaſion it to be more *Lightſome* than the reſt of the Skie, and thence it obtain'd the before mentioned Names.) Its *Form* was very long like a *Pillar*, or (as ſome were pleaſed to Compare it) much like that of the *Monument* near *London Bridge*. The upper part extended to the *Mid-heaven*, or place of the Sun at Noon, at the time of the Equinoxes, and reached down (though not in a Line exactly perpendicular, but ſomewhat Slanting) to the very Horizon. Yet it had ſo much of a *Pyramidal* Figure that it was larger at the *Baſis* than at the *Cuſpe*; or, in plain Engliſh, ſeemed *leſſer* towards the *upper* than towards the *lower* part. Its Colour was not bloody, or very frightful (bating only the ſtrangeneſs of the Sight) but *bright* and pleaſing; only at its firſt Appearance it ſeem'd more Reddiſh, and by continuance more *Faint* and *Pale*. It began both Nights to be viſible quickly after it grew Dark; that is, before or about Five of the Clock in the Evening, and continued conſpicuous for two Hours, but became gradually in time for the whole Length, rather than *ſucceſſively* in this or that part, to look more *whitiſh* and leſs apparent, and at laſt about Seven of the Clock ſeem'd to diſappear; The place which it before poſſeſs'd returning to the ſame Colour with the reſt of the contiguous Firmament.

Various are the Sentiments of Philoſophers touching the *Matter* and *Generation* of theſe kind of *Appearances*: ſome conceit them to be only *Sublunary Meteors* or Vapours that aſcend out of the Earth,

not ſo much inflamed as illuſtrated by the Sun, like *Glaſs-pots* full of water, diſtained with a Yellow or Rutilous Colour; Others think them an *Elementary Meteor*, that is, compoſed of the more *ſubtile or thin Exhalations*, which by reaſon of their own Levity and Rarity, are mounted ſo high that they aſcend above the *Moon*, and then by their own Chryſtal-like clearneſs, do as it were ſoak and *Drink up* the Rays of the Planets, but more eſpecially the *Sun*, which according to the Figure of their matter they tranſmit to our ſight in the ſhape of a *Tail*, a *Buſh*, a *Beard*, a *Pillar*, &c. But *Paracelſus* and his Diſciples (perhaps with more *reaſon* and reſpect to Divinity) maintain that they are not begot by Nature of any ſublunary nor *elemental Sperm*, but Formed and Compoſed by a *ſpecial Mandamus* from Providence, by the Adminiſtration of *Angels* or Spirits, who according to the Commiſſion they have received, form ſuch *Oſtents*, and put them into ſuch ſhapes and Figures, and attract them along the Air, either higher or lower, for a longer or ſhorter ſpace of time, and in view of ſuch or ſuch places and people, that Mortals may more zealouſly behold them, and be the more remarkably poſſeſſed and warn'd of their Significations.

This is generally agreed by the *Learned*, and confirmed by uninterrupted Experience, that never do any ſuch unuſual *prodigious Phænomina* appear in the *Heavens*, but they are the Forerunners or *warning-pieces* of ſome ſtupendious *Changes* or Cataſtrophes on Earth. The all-wiſe and moſt merciful Creator, when offended with our impieties, chooſing firſt to afflict us with Temporal Puniſhments, that we may avoid thoſe which are Eternal, and to uſe for our amendment theſe *Natural Alarms* and Awakening Signs, thereby

to

to Convert us to Repentance. And therefore justly saith *Tertullian*, *Omnia hæc Signa sunt imminentis iræ Dei*; All these things are signs of the imminent wrath of God. Which the Philosophical *Du Bartas* thus notably Paraphases, in the Second days work, *fol.* 14.

Here in the Night appears a flaming Spire;
There a Fierce Dragon *folded all in Fire.*
Here a bright Comet; *there a* fiery Stream;
Here flying Lances; *there a* burning Beam;
Here seems an Horned Goat, *environ'd round*
With fiery Flakes about the Air to bound.
There with long bloody Hair a Blazing-Star,
Threatning the World with Famine, *Plague and War.*
To Princes Death; to Kingdoms many Crosses;
To all Estates inevitable Losses,
To Shepherds Rott; to Plowmen hapless Seasons;
To Sailors Storms; to Cities Civil Treasons.

Indeed, what *Prodigies* of Villany have we not lately seen discovered amongst us? *Hellish Miscreants*, under pretence of advancing *Catholick Religion*, plotting and practising most horrid *Treasons*, Assassinations, effronted *Perjuries*, and all kind of Wickedness? *Brothers* contriving the Murder of *Brothers?* Cursed *Vipers* gnawing out the Bowels of their *Mother-Countrey?* Treacherous Vermine setting their *Consciences* to sale, and ready to betray their own Posterity to *Slavery* for one Sup of the *Devils Holy Water?* Atheism professed, Debauchery made the Ladder of Preferment, Honour prostituted to Vice, and Vertue prosecuted as the worst of Crimes? *Laws* undermin'd, *Justice* baffled, *Religion* made a Scoff, and all Sobriety rendred Contemptible.

Contemptible. But we hope and may assuredly believe (if our crying Sins do not divert it) that God, whose Adorable Providence of Old, by *Signs and Wonders* delivered his Chosen *Israel* out of *Egypt*, and led them *with a Cloud by day, and a pillar of Fire by night*, as he hath in so miraculous a manner detected and defeated the Malice of our Popish Adversaries against our King and Religion, so he is graciously pleased to signifie by this *Celestial Pillar*, That he is still ready to *Conduct* and *Support* us, and will certainly deliver us from the *Machinations* of all those spiritual *Egyptians*, who study and strenuously endeavour to involve us in *Idolatry* and *Slavery*; and will (as hitherto) still preserve us, if we shall sincerely Repent of our Iniquities, and put our Trust and Confidence in Him.

FINIS.